

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Essex Institute
[Salem, MA]

1925

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT
President.HENRY W. BELKNAP
Secretary.WILLIAM O. CHAPMAN
Treasurer.LOUISE M. TAYLOR
Librarian.THE ESSEX INSTITUTE,
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

April 15, 1925.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway near 155th St.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am very anxious to identify a magazine extract for a catalog of our China collection that is under way. The entry is as follows:

Huttmann, William. On the copper and paper money of China. From a magazine, vol. 2, no. 9, p. 409-417. The next page has "cont. from Mar. no." Probably it is an English magazine, as he speaks of England as a resident, and I think the date is after 1824.

If you have English magazines of that time devoted to numismatics, would you be good enough to see if this is in any of them? The book appears in Mr. Robinson's Catalog of books on Oriental coins, but he did not find in what magazine it was published.

I presume you have heard of his sudden death last week; it will be a great loss to Salem.

I hope I am not putting you to much trouble; I shall appreciate your help very much.

Very truly yours,

Louise M. Taylor,

Librarian.

LMT:BSH

April 17th, 1925

Miss Louise M. Taylor
The Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Dear Miss Taylor:

We can find nothing in our library concerning an article by William Hattmann, about which you enquire. I am sending your letter to an old-time collector of Chinese coins who possibly might have the information.

I did not know of Mr. Robinson's sudden death, and am much grieved to learn of it. I have appreciated, however, that he has been getting along in years and that that was something to be expected sooner or later. Could you let me know a few more details - especially the date?

Very truly yours,

Curator



THE ESSEX INSTITUTE,

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

April 21, 1925.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood;

I am enclosing a clipping from our newspaper about Mr. Robinson, also a copy of another of which I had no copy; I shall have to ask you to return the clippings to me, as it is the only one I have, but you need not return the editorial. I found that Mr. Jenkins had an extra copy at the Museum, and I have sent that to Mr. Duffield, of the Numismatist.

Mr. Robinson's death was a fearful blow - though we feel a little comfort knowing that it happened exactly as he had hoped it might; in the four years that I have been here he has been a very dear friend and such a sympathetic listener to all my plans for my work that I am going to miss him tremendously.

Sincerely yours,

Louise M. Taylor.

April 28th, 1925

Miss Louise M. Taylor
The Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Dear Madam:

Many thanks for sending the newspaper
clippings concerning our good friend Mr. Robinson.
I have read these with much interest, and have
made certain notes.

I am returning the two clippings, here-
with, as requested.

Again thanking you,

Very truly yours,

Curator

October 10th, 1925

The Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Although I have always been familiar with the letters which Mr. Ramsden wrote Mr. Robinson, and I reread most of them when Mr. Robinson presented to us bound copies a number of years ago, the more I refer to them, the more I appreciate their value. I do not recall how many copies Mr. Robinson had made - but far too few for their importance. Has the Essex Institute ever contemplated issuing these Letters for more general distribution. I appreciate that the demand would not be heavy, but I feel convinced that there would be a certain demand for them if they were well advertised.

Very truly yours,

Curator



WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT, PRESIDENT
HENRY W. BELKNAP, SECRETARY
CARL F. A. MORSE, TREASURER
LOUISE M. TAYLOR, LIBRARIAN
HARRIET S. TAPLEY, EDITOR

THE ESSEX INSTITUTE

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

October 13th. 1925

Howland Wood, Esq., Curator,

American Numismatic Society,

Broadway & 155th. Street, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

I have been looking into the matter referred to in yours of 10th. It does not appear that Mr. Robinson ever placed here a copy of the letters from Mr. Ramsden as our Librarian has no record of them and I believe that he must have had them at his home, since the Curator of the Peabody Museum does not think they are there.

I shall try and get in touch with his son and see if he knows anything about them and will write you again.

It is possible that through our China Library fund we might see the way to print them.

I wish that you could give us some advice about our coin collection, for Mr. Robinson's death left us without any curator in that department and I know nothing at all about coins and have no time to study the subject.

We know of no one about here who has any knowledge of the subject and have never appointed a successor to Mr. Robinson.

As a matter of fact our collection might as well be buried as far as any practical value is concerned. No one knows a bit about it here; it is too valuable to display it in any place we have; we cannot afford to provide a special custodian and it is secreted in our fire-proof stack and never shown at all. Very few know of it and hardly anyone even asks to see it. If they did it would mean that someone would have to neglect other work and stand guard as long as the visitor stayed and I am always embarrassed when once in a while someone does ask to see it. If we ever are able to rebuild we should provide a proper room for it, but that seems a far cry.

Yours very truly,

Henry W. Belknap
Secretary & Curator.



WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT, PRESIDENT
HENRY W. BELKNAP, SECRETARY
CARL F. A. MORSE, TREASURER
LOUISE M. TAYLOR, LIBRARIAN
HARRIET S. TAPLEY, EDITOR

THE ESSEX INSTITUTE

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

October 23rd. 1925

Howland Wood, Esq., Curator,

American Numismatic Society,

Broadway & 155th. Street, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

We duly found the Ramsden letters soon after I wrote you and Mr. Jenkins and I have talked over the matter of their publication.

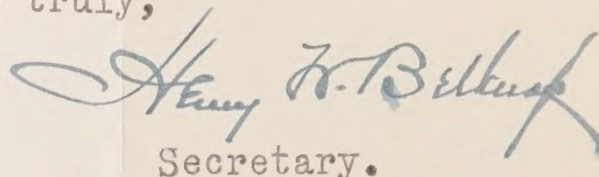
At the present time we have under way the expensive proposition of a catalogue of our China library and so could hardly undertake any other work which would lock up money.

Obviously it would be necessary to have someone like yourself edit the letters and compile the copy and no one here is competent.

Many line cuts would be required and a good deal of expense and we doubt if one could get out whole much less make anything on the book.

Does your Society print a magazine or annual? If so probably our Directors would allow you to publish the letters as a continued article if you desired.

Yours truly,


Secretary.

October 31st, 1925

The Essex Institute
Salem, Mass.

Attention - Mr. Henry W. Belknap

Gentlemen:

Since the receipt of your last two letters, I have been thinking over the proposition of Mr. Robinson's book. The more I study the situation, the more expensive I realize it would be; and, if written so that the important parts only are used, it would take a great deal of careful editing - and I know of no one at the present time competent or at leisure who could undertake it. The only funds that we have available for printing are for our monographs which are of ^{so} small a format that it would be quite impossible for the Ramsden letters. The cost of this format also precludes a great many articles being printed.

I read with great interest what you wrote with regard to the coin collection. I remember years ago, that you had one or more large boxes of coins and tokens which had been acquired in the course of years - and especially a very interesting collection of Cincinnati Civil War store cards. Your problem is a little different to many other Museums, Historical Societies and libraries, where a coin collection is really out of place and a white elephant. Here, in New York, several of the Museums have either deposited or turned over to us the coins they had. As far as I know, you are the only Institution in this country which is equipped to keep, display and work on coins. The National Museum is capable of displaying, and to some extent able to look after, its coins, but it has no one person directly assigned to numismatics, and consequently very ^{little} real work or study is done with regard to them. It seems too bad that your coins cannot be transferred elsewhere. Naturally, we should like to see them placed here!

Very truly yours,

Curator



WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT, PRESIDENT
HENRY W. BELKNAP, SECRETARY
CARL F. A. MORSE, TREASURER
LOUISE M. TAYLOR, LIBRARIAN
HARRIET S. TAPLEY, EDITOR

THE ESSEX INSTITUTE

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

November 3rd. 1925

Howland Wood, Esq., Curator,

American Numismatic Society,

Broadway & 155th. Street, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

Thank you for your kind letter and I suppose we must just let those papers wait until some chance comes to get them in shape.

Personally I think you are quite right about the desirability of depositing the coins with you as they would be far more useful there than here, but I am very sure that coming as they did, chiefly from Mr. Robinson, it would not be at all possible to get the Directors to agree to it.

Very truly yours,

Henry W. Belknap
Secretary.